

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07 L-03
NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06
COME-00 EB-07 LAB-04 SIL-01 A-01 OPR-02 SY-05 OC-06
CCO-00 TRSE-00 /082 W
----- 008876 /43

R 151115Z DEC 76
FM AMEMBASSY GEORGETOWN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3875
INFO AMEMBASSY BRASILIA
AMEMBASSY BRIDGETOWN
AMEMBASSY CARACAS
AMEMBASSY KINGSTON
AMEMBASSY PARAMARIBO
AMEMBASSY PORT OF SPAIN

C O N F I D E N T I A L GEORGETOWN 2535

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PINS, PROP, ELAB, GY
SUBJECT: GUYBAU WORKERS STRIKE AT LINDEN

REF: (A) GEORGETOWN 2505, (B) GEORGETOWN 2522

1. THE CHRONICLE OF DECEMBER 14 REPORTED THAT THE GUYANA MINE WORKERS UNION (GMWU) HAS APPEALED TO STRIKERS TO RETURN TO WORK AND THAT PRODUCTION IS GRADUALLY RETURNING TO NORMAL. HOWEVER, THE MIRROR INDICATED THAT STRIKERS CONTINUE TO REMAIN AWAY FROM WORK. (POST HAS ALSO HEAR THAT WORKERS HAD NOT RETURNED AS OF COB DEC. 14).

2. THE OPPOSITION PPP MIRROR ON DECEMBER 12 CLAIMED THAT THE STRIKERS HAVE REPUDIATED THE UNION LEADERSHIP AND HAVE FORMED A QUOTE COMMITTEE OF SEVEN UNQUOTE TO NEGOTIATE ON THEIR BEHALF.

3. MEANWHILE, CONFLICTING REPORTS INDICATE THAT BETWEEN 30 TO 75 PERSONS HAVE BEEN ARRESTED AS A RESULT OF THE DISTURBANCES IN LINDEN. GDS HAS STATED 42 STRIKERS WILL STAND TRIAL, 29 FOR ILLEGAL ASSEMBLY AND 13 FOR ASSAULT.

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4. THE GOVERNMENT HAS MOVED QUICKLY TO MOBILIZE PUBLIC OPINION IN BEHALF OF THE UNION AND GUYBAU. ACCORDING TO THE CHRONICLE OF DEC. 14, RESIDENTS OF LINDEN HAVE ADOPTED A RESOLUTION URGING WORKERS TO QUOTE RESIST ATTEMPTS AT DESTABILISATION BY POLITICAL ELEMENTS OUTSIDE THE INDUSTRY AND COMMUNITY UNQUOTE. THE ARTICLE STATED THAT THE DISRUPTIONS AT GUYBAU BORE SIMILARITIES TO THE DESTABILIZATION OF CHILE UNDER ALLENDE AND THAT A NEWLY FORMED POLITICAL PARTY IDENTIFIED AS O.W.P. HAD IMPORTED QUOTE 20 ACTIVISTS UNQUOTE INTO THE LINDEN AREA FOR THE PURPOSE OF INTIMIDATING WORKERS AND SPREADING MALICIOUS RUMORS. THE OPCXSION WORKERS PEOPLE'S ALLIANCE (WPA) HAS DECLARED ITS SOLIDARITY WITH THE STRIKERS.

5. COMMENT: THE STRIKE OF THE BAUXITE WORKERS HAS NOW TAKEN ON DANGEROUS OVERTONES. AS MENTIONED REFTELS, GOG NEEDS TO SETTLE STRIKE QUICKLY; HOWEVER, USE OF FORCE BY GOVERNMENT WITH SUBSEQUENT ARRESTS INDICATES GRAVITY OF THE SITUATION AND BITTERNESS OF WORKERS WHO FEEL BETRAYED BY UNION LEADERSHIP. PRESS REPORT OF CHARGE OF DESTABILIZATION WAS FAIRLY PREDICTABLE UNDER THE CIRCUMSTANCES. WE HAVE NO KNOWLEDGE OF ANY NEW POLITICAL PARTY O.W.P. NOR OF ITS ADHERENTS. SUFFICE TO SAY BY INTERJECTING THAT THE PROBLEMS WERE CREATED BY "OUTSIDE INFLUENCES" THE GOG CAN MORE EASILY EXPLAIN AWAY STRIKE.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: LABOR STRIKES, LABOR UNIONS, STRIKE SETTLEMENT, MINING INDUSTRY
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 15 DEC 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: GolinoFR
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976GEORGE02535
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760461-1050
From: GEORGETOWN
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19761242/aaaabjtl.tel
Line Count: 94
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION ARA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 76 GEORGETOWN 2505, 76 GEORGETOWN 2522
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: GolinoFR
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 13 JUL 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <13 JUL 2004 by ShawDG>; APPROVED <14 JUL 2004 by GolinoFR>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: GUYBAU WORKERS STRIKE AT LINDEN
TAGS: PINS, PROP, ELAB, GY, GMWU
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006